

Secretarial Order Issued Sept. 28 SEPARATION OF MICRONESIA SET

An amended Secretarial Order to provide for the legislative separation of Palau and the Marshalls from the Congress of Micronesia was issued in early October by the Department of Interior.

Slated to take effect October 1, the Order now awaits Congress of Micronesia certification of election results from the July 12 Constitution referendum. The COM has just completed an investigation into alleged voting irregularities in Palau district and a decision is expected during its special session on Ponape which ends October 29.

The Order, signed by Secretary of Interior, Cecil Andrus on September 28, cancels the election of the Congress of Micronesia scheduled for November 1978; reconstitutes the delegations for the Congress from the central districts as the "Interim Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia"; reconstitutes the district legislatures of the Marshalls and Palau, with the former COM delegation added, as the paramount bodies for their district with the authority similar to that of the "Interim Congress"; and

provides for segregation of revenues and fiscal matters among the three entities effective October 1, 1978.

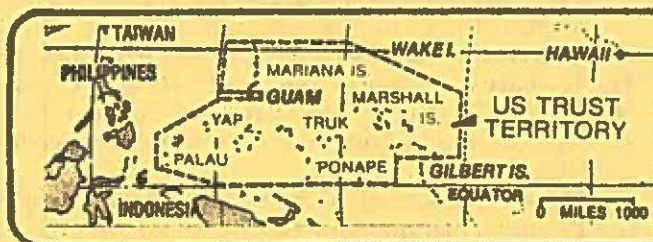
The terms of the members of the Interim Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia shall extend until such time as the first Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is elected and organized according to the Micronesian Constitution. Election of the first FSM Congress shall be held not later than March 31, 1979.

Members of the Palau and Marshalls delegation to the COM shall become members-at-large at their respective legislatures with terms of office to be determined by their legislature.

Cancelling the November COM election was endorsed by all Micronesian parties because of the imminent election of the new FSM Congress.

Effective October 1, 1978, all revenues collected shall return to the treasury of the district of origin except in the case of those districts under the Interim FSM Congress, in which case the current law will continue to apply.

Continued on page 5



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MICRONESIA SUPPORT COMMITTEE
BULLETIN

1212 University Ave., Honolulu HI. 96826

Reluctant Bikinians Returned to "The Prison"

by Mike Malone

BIKINI ATOLL—Andrew Jakeo was a young man, 36 years old, when the Americans first asked him to leave his homeland in 1946. Last month on Bikini—the site of 23 nuclear tests that ended in 1958—history repeated itself.

Jakeo, now a Bikini elder and traditional leader of 68 years, and about 140 other islanders reluctantly left their coral-and-sand atoll for the second time August 31, after learning that they were absorbing levels of radioactive cesium-137 at an alarmingly high rate.

Their departure did not come easy. When Trust Territory High Commissioner Adrian P. Winkel arrived on Bikini with nearly 40 newsmen from around the world, Jakeo and his people declared their intentions to stay on Bikini. For Jakeo and other Bikinians who came back here after being told by American scientists in 1968 that their homeland was safe, the news that they would be asked to leave was a bitter blow.

"I don't care about radiation on Bikini," Jakeo told the high commissioner through an interpreter. "I will send out my children and family if it is necessary. Bikini is my home, my freedom, my happiness. You can take my life now. Bury me beside my home, but I will never return to Kili."

After being told in 1946 that their removal for atomic testing would be for the "... good of mankind and to end all wars," the Bikini people trusted the Americans' assurances that they would be well cared for. But less than one year after their relocation to Rongerik Atoll, they were starving. In 1948 they were taken to Kili, an isolated island about one-half square mile in size. In contrast to Bikini Atoll's huge lagoon surrounded by numerous islands, Kili lacks a lagoon and heavy seas make it inaccessible in winter months.

An American teacher on Kili, Ralph Waltz, 36, recalled losing 40 pounds during one winter when six months passed without receiving a supply ship. He said many people refer to Kili as "the prison."

"Thirty years ago you (U.S.) took us to Kili and left us there," Jakeo told the high commissioner. "Then you forgot about us. Many years passed and your promises were not kept. Now you want to take us back to Kili. I am afraid you will forget about us again."

To ease the situation, High Commissioner Winkel brought news that Kili would merely be a temporary relocation site. Twenty-eight wooden tin-roof houses have been built there, in addition to a dispensary, school, and promise of a dock to be built soon—all part of a \$15 million relocation program now being considered by the U.S. Congress.



Bikinians prepare to leave atoll: a repeat of 1946. (photo: M. Malone)

But the Bikinians want to eventually return back to Bikini Atoll to Eneu Island which is thought to be safe by scientists, although radiological tests will continue there until next year. Failing that, the Bikinians have asked to be given land in Hawaii or on the U.S. mainland.

However, a day of delicate negotiations with High Commissioner Winkel brought an agreement whereby Jakeo and his followers, about 30 people, would leave Bikini, but not to go to Kili. Instead, they will settle on an uninhabited island in Majuro Atoll near the Marshall's district center and medical facilities. The rest of the Bikinians agreed to resettle on Kili.

Before leaving Bikini, Winkel acknowledged the "regrettable" error made by the scientists in 1968 when Bikini was declared "safe," and praised the people for their "responsible decision" to leave their homeland again.

"As far as the present risks are concerned," Winkel said, "we cannot afford to play God. The risk is indeed great. Ten years from now, who knows, maybe the scientists will determine Bikini safe again. But the risk exists if you stay." Medical examinations will be given to the Bikini people every three months to monitor their body levels of radioactivity.

Shortly before sunset that final day on Bikini, after all the islanders and their belongings were loaded aboard the two ships that came to take them away, Jakeo walked the length of his deserted home island alone—perhaps for the last time. As a ship's whistle sounded, Jakeo put his outrigger canoe into the blue lagoon and paddled out to the waiting vessel.

Opposition to Military Growing Pacific Militarization vs. Self-Determination

2

It is a tragic fact but to the big military powers Pacific island people have been and continue to be incidental and unimportant. Expendable would even be a more accurate term.

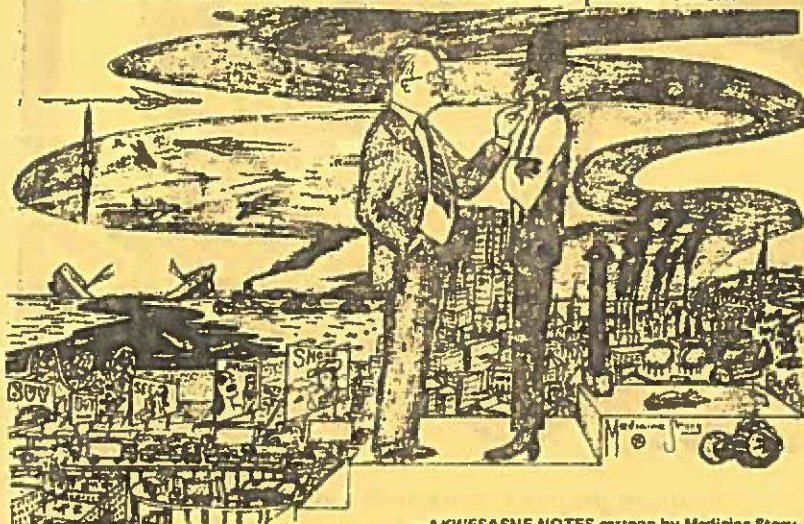
The major powers have been and continue to be interested in Pacific islands as military staging areas. Expediency, expendability, and discrimination go hand in hand. People of color who know the experience best call it racism.

It is this prevailing racist attitude which resulted in the illegal overthrow of the legitimate Hawaiian government by the U.S. marines in 1893 and established Hawaii as the U.S. military fortress of the Pacific. It is this same racist attitude which established the air base on Tinian island in what is now called Micronesia and then used that air base to launch the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is this same racist attitude which displaced the people of Bikini island, Eniwetok, and other Marshall island people from their native lands so that over 60 U.S. nuclear weapon tests could be conducted. The litany is near endless—Christmas island, Mururoa, Kwajalein, Ebeye.

Pacific island people have paid a heavy price to the nuclear powers—native lands confiscated, irradiated, in some cases islands have been vaporized by U.S., British, and French nuclear testing; marine and soil life destroyed—culture, economy, language—every fabric of life—all militarized and topped with a legacy of cancer for present and future generations.

Pacific-wide Resistance

Out of this history of exploitation today grows resistance to outside domination and militarism. As people of the Pacific islands we see a direct linkage between efforts to regain control of our own lives and efforts to demilitarize the Pacific. The two are inseparable, as inseparable as the issues of nuclear power and nuclear weapons which in effect is one issue—the survival of life on planet earth.



"Trouble with you people is you never knew how to use the land."

Trident has forced the issue because it is being designed primarily as a Pacific weapons system. With Trident's missiles having a longer range than Polaris/Poseidon, the Trident submarine will be able to cruise in a wider area, thereby infecting more of the Pacific as a nuclear war zone. . . . with each new weapon system deployed in the Pacific there is not only increased danger of nuclear war but there is inevitably forward Pacific support bases and sub-systems to accompany each new weapon system. There is the surveillance, command, control, communication, navigation, etc. hardware. The immediate net result for Pacific island people is clear—further displacement of people from their native lands and greater outside domination in every aspect of life.

Hawaii is a classic example of what's in store for many Pacific islands (even without the use of nuclear weapons) unless an immediate stop is put to today's arms race.

Over the years of American domination, Hawaii has become the U.S. nuclear command and weapons stockpile center of the Pacific. Hawaii now has a total of 110 separate military installations. 25% of the capitol island, Oahu, is controlled for military purposes and the 8th largest island, Kahoolawe, is used exclusively as a bombing target including the use of mock nuclear weapons. There are more than 120,000 military personnel and dependents in Hawaii and 20,000 civilians employed by the military—all in a relatively small land area with a total population of less than 1 million people.

At present, the Northern Mariana Islands and Palau in Micronesia is especially being targeted by the U.S. for more military build up since the loss of U.S. bases in south-east Asia.

A 1973 U.S. Army position paper noted that Guam will be the center of U.S. military activity in the Western Pacific "because of its excellent facilities and permanent political relationship with the U.S. . . . Palau has excellent anchorage, Ponape and Babelthuap are suited for nuclear weapon storage and training areas. The Marianas in general are ideally suited for airfields. . . . Tinian is suitable for a major airbase as well as nuclear stockpiling and troop staging facilities. Rota could support a missile base and troop training areas." All of these places are in the Micronesian islands!

A solid network of Pacific island resistance supported by the U.S. and other Pacific rim peace and justice groups is essential for stopping the tide of further Pacific nuclear infection and the death of Pacific island culture and way of life.

A beginning and very hopeful effort at such a network occurred in 1975 when people (rather than government) delegates from more than 20 Pacific countries met in Suva, Fiji, to share experiences and draft a peoples treaty for a Nuclear Free Pacific. At that conference important groundwork was laid out but the network now needs to be revitalized.

Resistance is already well underway in many places in the Pacific. . . . In the New Hebrides and New Caledonia native peoples are moving ever closer to independence from French and British colonialism. . . . With the loss of France's Pacific colonies, French nuclear testing will be forced to end once and for all unless they of course want to test their bombs in Paris!

In addition, plans to reconvert Tinian island to a major naval and air base is meeting with stiff opposition from the island's youth.

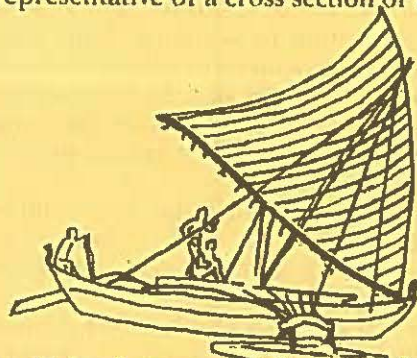
Other resistance cases abound. . . . Presently the major anti-military focal points in Hawaii are the island of Kahoolawe which is used for bombing practice, and nuclear weapons storage sites on the island of Oahu. . . . Many people have already engaged in non-violent civil disobedience by occupying the island even while live practice bombing continued.

It is only a matter of time before the bombing of Kahoolawe is stopped permanently.

Nuclear Weapons Campaign

Opposition to the storage of nuclear weapons has forced the announced closing of the Waikale nuclear weapons storage base. We have come to learn that the military is very vulnerable to having their nuclear weapons exposed for what they are—a hazard and threat to all life in our own communities and around the world.

A multi-level campaign including court action is now underway to stop new nuclear weapon storage facilities at Pearl Harbor's West Loch from becoming operational. . . . With the recent organization of the Opihi Alliance for a Nuclear Free Hawaii we are attempting, and making progress toward, the development of a broader based movement representative of a cross section of Hawaii's society.



Should legal attempts fail to stop the West Loch site from becoming operational, we will begin a campaign of non-violent civil disobedience in the spring of 1979. At that time we would appreciate your further help in communicating to others that Pacific island people exist, that we are struggling for our lives and toward the day when the Pacific ocean truly becomes an ocean of peace.

by Jim Albertini

(Excerpts of a speech delivered to the National Mobilization for Survival Conference, Sept. 16, in Des Moines, Iowa)

Palau Referendum Irregularities Charged

3

The results of the July 12 Constitution referendum have not been certified by the Congress of Micronesia, and a Special Joint Committee on Referendum Review was formed and just completed an investigation into alleged voting irregularities in Palau district.

The Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia passed in the four central Caroline island districts of Ponape, Kosrae, Truk and Yap, while being rejected in the Marshalls by a margin of 6,221 to 3,888 and in Palau 3,339 to 2,720.

Protests were received from both Palau and the Marshalls alleging campaign misconduct on the part of the two status commissions urging separation. However, the Referendum Review committee only looked into the Palau situation.

In early September, Palau chiefs Ibedul Yutaka Gibbons and acting Reklai Eusebio Termeteet, leaders in the pro-unity movement, cabled the High Commissioner, Adrian Winkle, saying that they had "conclusive evidence" that there were irregularities in the July referendum.

The Palau investigation began the first week of October, with James Hamilton, a Washington attorney who worked in the Watergate investigation, heading up the probe along with Referendum Review committee chairman, Julio Akapito from Truk. The United Nations obser-

vers, in the T.T. since June, monitored the procedures.

Allegations From Both Factions

Proponents of the Micronesian Constitution in Palau charged that there was bribery, blackmailing and intimidation on the part of the separationists, according to the Marianas Variety.

In the wake of the Palau chiefs' petition demanding an investigation, the Palau Political Status Commission sent information to Hamilton alleging that Ibedul and Reklai received double travel vouchers from the COM and the Palau legislature for a trip to the U.N. and to Ponape.

Travel vouchers produced by the status commission indicate that payment of travel expenses and per diem for the chiefs were authorized by both the COM and Palau legislature on two occasions. A report in the Marianas Variety did not state whether the money was actually expended by both legislatures.

The COM Special Session on Ponape began October 12, and was to consider the report from the Referendum Review committee. It was not known at press time whether the committee would recommend to the COM that Palau's election result be certified or cancelled. (See related article, Legislative Separation of Micronesia Set, this issue.)

TRUK FIRST DISTRICT TO ELECT GOV.

Erhart Aten and Hans Wiliander were sworn in as the first elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Truk District, in a ceremony witnessed by more than 6,000 people in late September.

The theme of his government will be "economic development" according to Aten. "All other programs will be built around it. In our program, fisheries, agriculture and tourism are the first priorities," he said.

Aten worked as the Deputy District Administrator of Truk from 1975 until the present.

Wiliander, formerly a counselor with Micronesian Legal Services in Moen, served two terms as a member of

the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia. While in the COM in the early 1970's, Wiliander was a leader of Independence Advocates, a coalition of Micronesian Congressmen. He is also the only Micronesian to have traveled to the Peoples Republic of China.

In a farewell speech to the Congress, Wiliander said, "It is clear that increasingly, the important decisions affecting the districts and the futures states of the Federated States of Micronesia, will be made at the local level."

"I can be of the best service to the people of Truk, and the people of Micronesia in the position of Truk's Lieutenant Governor," he concluded.

First Union Convention in Palau

Three Palau labor unions held an historic convention during the first week of October, with the goal of organizing a district-wide Palau labor federation.

Behind the theme "Fellow workers let's unite and move forward," the convention delegates called for the district government to force the Palau Continental Hotel (PCH) to resume negotiations with striking employees.

The PCH workers have been on strike for more than 10 months, and have received support from the U.S. High Commissioner as well as from U.S. labor unions and politicians.

The convention, jointly sponsored by unions from Van Cmp Seafoods, Micronesian Industrial Corporation and PCH, adopted the following measures to:

- create a Workers Credit Union for private sector and government workers
- develop a district-wide labor organization
- support labor oriented legislation before the district legislature
- support pro-labor candidates for the upcoming Constitutional Convention, and push for workers' rights to be protected in the Constitution
- establish closer ties with labor movements in "neighboring island nations" and other parts of the world
- support the PCH strikers and request the legislature to appropriate \$5,000 to the strike fund

The guest speaker at the convention was Bob Coble, vice-president of the Guam Federation of Teachers.

According to the Pacific Daily News, Coble said efforts are underway in Palau to form a teachers' union, a port workers' union and a government workers' union. Palau is the only district in Micronesia with existing labor unions.

In addition, Coble said that the striking PCH employees were still picketing Continental in early October and that Van Camp and MIC unions were providing food and "moral support" to the strikers.



Palau labor convention leaders (l to r.): Johnny Trolui, Van Camp; Yusim Sato, MIC; Paulinus Ichikawa, Continental Hotel; Moses Uludong; and Bob Coble, Guam Federation of Teachers

According to PDN, on Guam the Federation of Teachers has launched a boycott campaign against Continental Hotels and Continental Airlines.

"If this was in the states, the National Labor Relations Board would require them (Continental) to negotiate because a majority of the workers are in the union," Coble said. "I understand Continental is willing to lose money there because they don't want unions in their other hotels on Truk, Saipan and Guam."

Match the Quotes *or* Did He Really Say That?

4

As our third anniversary of publishing the MSC Bulletin rapidly approaches, we decided it was time to have a Quiz to ascertain your relative knowledgeability on Micronesia.

Rules for the first part are that you must match the

Match the Quotes:

Henry Kissinger

David L. Burte,
U.S. Naval Commander

Peter T. Coleman,
Acting Trust Territory
High Commissioner, 1976-77

Admiral Kent Carroll,
former Commander
of U.S. Naval Forces
in the Marianas

Multiple Choice:

Who is:

Robert Panero

- a) a Hollywood star
- b) U.S. Ambassador to Palau
- c) an Iranian Oil Company representative
- d) a Madison Avenue promoter

names at the left with the quotes on the right. The second part is multiple choice, only one answer is actually correct, although we're sure some others may indeed be partially true. Take out your pencils, you have 14 minutes to finish.

"You realize that there are millions of people in Japan and only 14,000 in Palau. We may have to sacrifice those 14,000."

"The U.S. is certainly not opposed to it" (the Palau superport). "I think it will be a difficult thing for the Palauans to turn down."

"There are only 90,000 people out there. Who gives a damn?"

"While some of the Micronesian workers at Ebeye have the technical ability to warrant promotion, they do not have the ability to be in charge, to supervise people, particularly Americans."

Dr. Robert Conard

- a) a famous baby doctor, responsible for the permissive society
- b) President of the AMA
- c) a Brookhaven National Lab. doctor who works for the Energy Research and Development Administration
- d) A renowned anthropologist specializing in the Marshalls.

The "Mike-Who?" Blues

Is everyone you talk to about Micronesia responding "Mike-who?" Well, perhaps we have a solution to your problem—a slide show is a great way to illustrate, while you talk, what and where Micronesia is. Slide shows are very portable and can be used in classes, meetings, community and church groups, and so forth.

We have just produced a Slide Show on the Marshall Islands (see article, this issue for details). For only \$50 (reproduction cost) plus postage, we can send you a copy of this new slide show.

Additionally, a slide show on the Palau superport and Micronesia (see article with description) is in finished form. It can be obtained for \$45 plus postage.

We are preparing a Micronesia slide show that we hope will be finished by the end of the year. Watch this space for details.

Palau Oil Superport: Will It Be Built?

A Slide Show on Palau and Micronesia

Since early 1975, the proposed oil superport transshipment and storage port for Palau, a joint Japanese and Iranian venture, has been the subject of international controversy and debate.

Palau, located in the western Caroline islands about 500 miles east of the Philippines, lies astride the new supertanker route from the mid-east to Japan; it is administered by the U.S. under an United Nations trust; has a small population of 14,000; and has natural deep water harbors.

Japan, since the 1973 OPEC oil embargo which cut short their oil supply, is committed to increasing its oil storage capacity reserve to 90 days. Because of strong opposition to such facilities inside Japan, the government has looked outside its borders for sites to locate a huge oil superport.

The slide show discusses the way people in Palau live and work; graphically illustrates the natural beauty of the reefs and land, and their many resources; highlights the lack of development throughout Micronesia as a whole; discusses the port proposal and its possible consequences to Palau; and notes the rising opposition to the port both inside Palau and internationally.

The slide show points to the dilemma of development facing people throughout the Pacific today.

The slide show is approximately 20-25 minutes in length and is available days and evenings for showings.



BIKINI ISLANDERS RELOCATED AGAIN:

A Slide Show on Nuclear Testing and Apartheid in the Marshall Islands

In 1968, ten years after the United States had completed its nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands, which included 23 atomic and hydrogen blasts at Bikini, President Lyndon Johnson announced that Bikini would be returned to its former inhabitants. The Atomic Energy Commission conducted studies and determined the atoll safe.

But ten years later, after more than 100 Bikinians had returned, their island is now considered too radioactive to live on for at least 50 years and the Bikinians have made international headlines by being relocated once more by the U.S.

What is the reason behind the Bikinians' second relocation? What happened to the Enewetak people who were also removed in the late 1940's for another series of tests? How did the people of these atolls live before their relocation? What effect did the nuclear tests have on the islands and the people contaminated at Rongelap and Utirik in 1954?

A problem "bordering on a patent violation of basic human rights" is how Rep. Patsy Mink in 1976 described the situation at Ebeye island in the Kwajalein lagoon, where more than 8,000 Marshallese live who work at the Army's Kwajalein missile range.

The 8,000 Marshallese are crowded into barely 66 acres of land, have only two doctors and a hepatitis rate three times that of any other Micronesian island. Why have the Marshallese workers charged the Kwajalein command with discrimination?

What is the situation today in these islands held in trust by the U.S.?

This slide show, drawing extensively on U.S. trust territory material, and using original slides from the Bikinians' 1946 relocation, documents the situation in the Marshalls and attempts to answer the questions raised above.

Its showing time is 20 minutes, and is available during days and evenings for showings to classes, community and church groups and others. For further information call the Micronesia Support Committee at 949-1196 or Giff Johnson at 595-7362, or write to 1212 University Ave., Honolulu, HI 96826.

Disaster Funds Pave Way For Military Construction

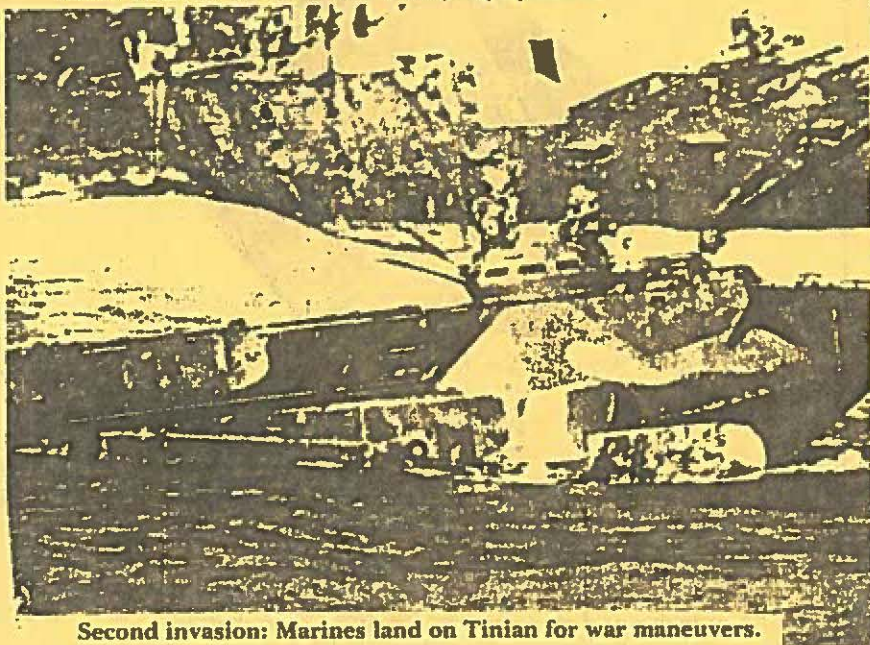
Federal disaster relief funds are being used for construction and upgrading of dock facilities at the Tinian harbor, in the Northern Marianas, which may be used by the military under the terms of the commonwealth agreement, informed sources say. Harbor facilities that have been in a state of disrepair for years, are being repaired and expanded with funds designated for civilian relief from a recent typhoon, according to sources at the Trust Territory government's Disaster Control office on Saipan.

According to military sources, there will be limited joint use of the harbor with local residents, and this has been used to justify expenditure of funds on the dock facilities.

Since the U.S. announced its intentions in 1973 to construct a \$300 million air/naval base on 2/3 of Tinian island, the Department of Defense has been unable to find support in the Congress for such a large scale base at this time. Consequently, construction plans for the huge facility have been temporarily shelved.

But with the 8,000 foot long runways left basically intact from World War II, and a sturdy breakwater in place at the harbor, refurbishing and small scale construction has taken place with funds not specifically designated for base construction. The end result is that the existing structures are upgraded and expanded with the federal funds flowing into Tinian over the last two years.

What started as "Operation Quick-Jab" on Tinian, landing maneuvers with about 200 marines, is now slated to expand to 1,300 man battalion size exercises. This expansion, according to military documents obtained late last year, was to cost more than \$1.7 million and would include as many as four navy ships, 22 helicopters, 12 amphibious tractors, five tanks, and other related vehicles and heavy equipment.



Second invasion: Marines land on Tinian for war maneuvers.

These maneuvers, usually every two to three months, are imposed on the Tinian population of about 900 people. According to sources on Tinian following an exercise, sometimes lasting up to a week, the

Secretarial Order Okays Separation

Reorganization of the Trust Territory Headquarters Departments, Bureaus, offices and other may be made by the High Commissioner without the need of consulting the interim FSM Congress.

In anticipation of the establishment of the Constitutional governments and the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the High Commissioner "is directed to initiate consultations for additional governmental reorganization giving effect to the maximum possible extent to developing constitutional arrangements consistent" with the obligations of the U.S. under the Trusteeship Agreement.

In a memorandum to Andrus, Ruth Van Cleve, Director of the Office of Territories, discussed the alleged election irregularities of the referendum in Palau.

The COM, according to Van Cleve, wanted the Secretary of the Interior to take "further action as he deems necessary in accordance with the law" if the Congress does not affirm the results of the referendum. The Marshalls and Palau have maintained that the ultimate judge is the Secretary of the Interior.

Marines paint buildings and give out free lunches as part of a public relations campaign.

Sources say the military's plans for a slow build-up of military operations and personnel on Tinian are part of a program designed to obtain local acceptance and support for their larger base plans in the future. At present, only very few of the Tinian people have seen the socio-economic study of Tinian conducted in 1974 for the Department of Defense-U.S. Air Force. And those who have seen the study have increased their opposition to the base plans.

The study says if the air base plans go ahead, "a minimal tenfold increase in population will engulf the present population . . . The present Tinian population will probably not be in the key and control positions they now hold."

After describing the present community on Tinian as "a close-knit one with families taking care of their own relatives," the study states "the present community . . . will change from a rural village to a service oriented small city," with the introduction of a base. "With urbanization will come depersonalization in inter-personal relationships; loss of community identity and cohesion; diffusion or loss of its present economic, ethnic, and social homogeneity; and a clearly delineated social and economic stratification will emerge. Family disorganization and social problems are anticipated and current traditions of close-knit extended families and mutual aid will be negatively affected," said the 400 page report.

In addition the Department of Defense study underlined what many Marianas residents have said for years: "The farmland on Tinian has been described by a TTPI agriculture economist as the most productive in the Territory." The study concludes, however, that with a base on Tinian, "much of the economic activities and potentials of the old economic pattern will cease to exist."

"The build up of a military base on Tinian will require approximately 17,475 acres out of a total land area of 25,066 acres," the study continued.

"If the present wage structure is maintained with the projected population density, these agriculture activities will be severely limited and the present standard of living will deteriorate . . ."

Although involving a much greater land area, the future predicted for the 900 people on Tinian by the Department of Defense Study, is remarkably similar to the sordid health and living conditions of the Marshallese on Ebeye Island, many of whom work at the Army's Kwajalein Missile Range nearby. In October, a State Department official involved in the Micronesia-U.S. future political status negotiations when questioned about U.S. military plans for Micronesia, stated bluntly: "In any human action there are trade-offs."

A young Tinian man, speaking at the United Nations in 1975, articulated his position on the base plans: "We believe in world peace, but what peace are we to achieve if we consent to the very same nation using again the very same island that was used to base the A-bombs that killed hundreds of thousands of Japanese people, for the very same purpose?"

Continued from page 1

"We do not agree that the COM should be authorized to order a new referendum," Van Cleve stated.

"Regardless of the findings of the current investigation," she continued, "such action by the Congress would only exacerbate a difficult political situation and plunge the status negotiations into turmoil."

The Director of Territorial Affairs said that if the COM finds that there is serious or substantial evidence of election irregularities, the Secretary can choose to ignore them, or if believed to be substantial enough, can order a new referendum.

"If the unity force should win," Van Cleve pointed out, "Palau could be added to the Federated States of Micronesia."

"The Secretarial Order (issued by Andrus September 28) reflects the desires of the people of Micronesia as expressed at the polls: it is a move toward self-government under locally developed constitutions; it is consistent with the direction of the status negotiations; and its approval is expected to enhance the chances of success of the status negotiations . . ." Van Cleve concluded.

Nauru Sues PDN for \$7½ Million

The president of the Republic of Nauru in October, filed a \$7.5 million defamation of character suit against Gannett Company for an article published in its Pacific Daily News paper on Guam.

The suit, filed in Honolulu District court, charges libel against PDN for an article carried on its front page May 30.

The story, headlined "Marshalls' Separatist Movement Gets Secret Funds from Nauru," was written by Cisco Uludong, and alleged that the government of Nauru was backing the separation movement in the Marshalls by giving a \$600,000 loan to the Marshall Islands Political Status Commission, prior to the July Constitution Referendum.

Hammer DeRoburt, President of Nauru, said in his lawsuit the story is "untrue in every significant respect," according to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. He charged that the PDN accused him of a "violation of accepted and established international standards of diplomacy and international relations" and exposed him to "criticism and ridicule" both within Nauru and elsewhere in the world, said the Honolulu paper.

The suit was filed on DeRoburt's behalf by George M. Allen, legal counsel to the Marshall Islands Political Status Commission.

ROTA EYED FOR SUPERPORT

A proposal to build a multi-million dollar oil superport in the N. Mariana Islands is being discussed by Marianas Governor Carlos S. Camacho and representatives of Northville Industries, a New York-based oil company.

Mendel Grynsztejn and Theodore C. Sorensen, Northville representatives, were in the Marianas in September to discuss the port plan with government officials. They also went to Rota, inhabited by about 1,800 residents, to look at possible sites for the superport.

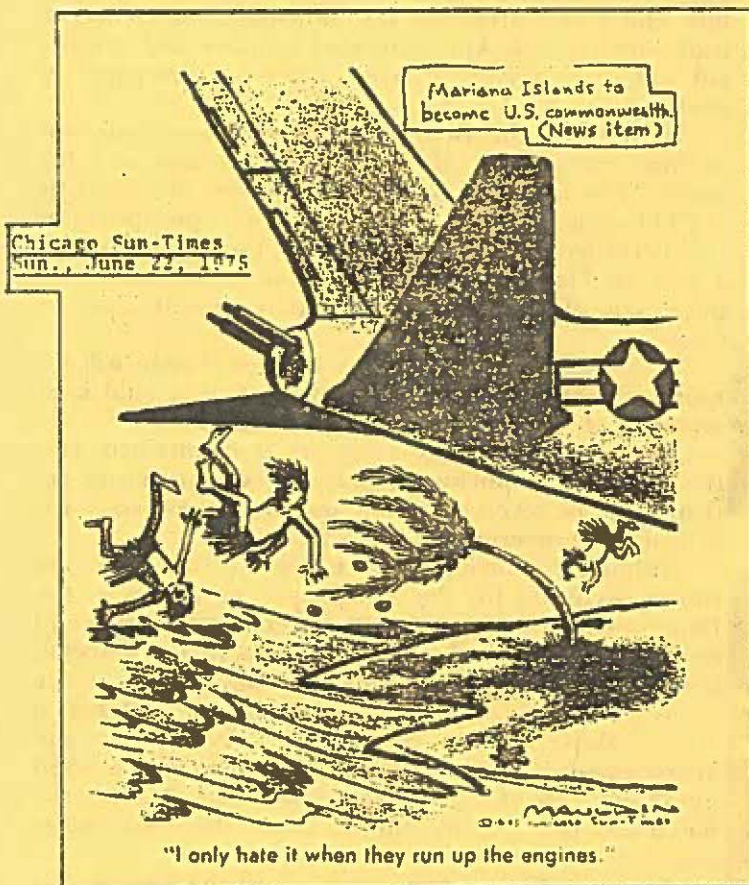
In a letter to the governor in April, Sorensen said "Northville is definitely and specifically interested in the possibility of building and operating, in partnership with the Marianas government, a deepwater supertanker transshipment port which would receive and unload the largest available crude-oil carriers, store their oil, and reload it into tankers of a size small enough to be accommodated in their ports of destination."

Sorensen also stated that an oil refinery would be established.

In the letter, Northville stressed that financing the oil complex—initial investment of \$300 to \$400 million—will be available to only one such oil transshipment port in this part of the Pacific; it must become fact before the proposed Palau superport project.

Sorensen said it is the company's main interest to promote economic development for the Marianas. He explained that he got to know about the Marianas from a Puerto Rico friend who served as Deputy High Commissioner in the 1960's. The friend introduced him to Marianas-Washington rep. Ed Pangelinan and from there he became interested in helping the Marianas.

Sorensen is a former counsel to President John F. Kennedy.



Micronesian Students Pull Together

They came from all over northern California. Some drove for 5 and 6 hours to be there. "They" were Micronesian students, and "there" was Chico State University, where the formation meeting of the Micronesian Student Association took place on the weekend of September 16.

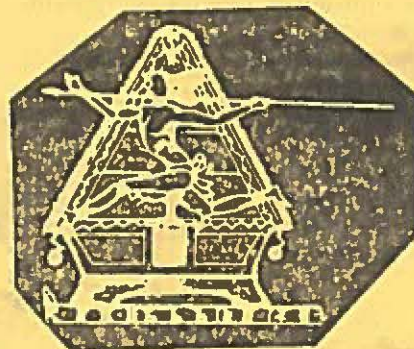
"It's really great to see everyone coming together like this," commented one of the Micronesian organizers of the 50 or so students that came to Chico.

The informal meeting began with the BBC produced "Secrets of a Coral Island" film on Palau. After the Chico students welcomed the visiting students, a slide presentation on Palau and Micronesia was shown, followed by a lively discussion on developments in the political status negotiations.

Following this, the meeting elected officers for the organization, and read a draft program of goals for the association. The association hopes to obtain limited funding from Trust Territory sources in order to staff an office to handle any problems facing students arriving from Micronesia; and to provide resources for Micronesian students in the northern California area, or students traveling to schools in other parts of the country.

"We hope to be able to expand to Micronesian student groups in other parts of the country in the future, but first we must organize our own association," said one of the students at the Chico meeting.

Their second meeting was scheduled for mid-October.



Bombs Away in the Marianas

The week of September 11 to 17, the U.S. Department of Defense used the island of Farrallon De Mendinilla, in the N. Marianas, as a target for B-52s dropping tons of bombs on it.

The Air Force bombing has raised criticism from the Marianas Legislature and legislators are questioning the validity of a permit signed in January by Governor Carlos Camacho and the military for use of the land.

According to the Commonwealth covenant, the entire island of Farrallon De Mendinilla and waters adjacent to it will be leased to the United States for 50 years at a rental fee of \$20,600 (or about \$412 per year for the small island). The technical agreement regarding use of land says "The U.S. may enjoy full and unrestricted use of the land after making the payment." No payment has been made to the Marianas by the U.S.

Acting Attorney General Michael De Angelo recommended to the governor and the legislature that the government "give written notice to revoke the permit and demand a report on the damage caused to the island by the bombings." He said, "No lease should be negotiated that does not provide for environmental impact and historic preservation studies."

At a meeting between legislators and Department of Defense representatives, Washington Liaison Officer Ed Pangelinan said the action of the governor appears to have "undermined" the authority of the legislature.

Lt. Commander Pat Roth said the military has no intention to undermine the responsibility of the Legislature. He said the military wants mutual understanding among all concerned because the military has provided, "in good will," humanitarian services to the Commonwealth.

In an apparent attempt to continue the lease, despite bypassing the legislature, Roth said "now is not the time" to revoke the permit, although the agreement signed by the governor is revocable with 30 days' notice.